

PARCEL POST HAS PROVED WORKABLE

Richmond Post-Office Handled Enormous Christmas Rush Without Delays.

MAILS HEAVIEST EVER KNOWN

Congestion Reported in Other Cities Not Apparent in This City—Postcard Problem.

By almost superhuman effort, the Richmond post-office has braved the heaviest Christmas traffic in its history, mastered the Christmas parcel post monster, and emerged triumphant while post-offices in other large cities are so congested that clerks are figuratively smothered under sacks of mail. For the last four days the full strength of the local post-office force has been working night and day to keep the door cleared and send mail out on the street as fast as it was brought up from the trains.

Although more than 2,000 sacks of mail were handled yesterday in the office, midnight of Christmas eve found the floor almost clear of accumulated mail, and no prospect of congestion and delayed delivery staring the weary clerks in the face. The office force

has been increased by fifty men for the holidays, not to mention extra wagons, and this additional strength has played no little part in the phenomenal work of the office.

Mailed Parcels Early.
There was a decline in outgoing mail yesterday, giving a sure sign that Richmond people shopped early and mailed their parcels early. This co-operation on the part of the public was of inestimable value in speeding the transmission of mail. When the long line of waiting people in the parcel post division faded away yesterday Postmaster Allan was able to concentrate almost his entire force on the outgoing mail. In proportion as the outgoing mail diminished the incoming mail increased until it was at its height last night.

The flood of postal cards which has descended upon the post-office is the most serious ever known. Postmaster Allan said yesterday that for the entire week the stamping machines have been registering more than 200,000 postal cards daily. The handling of this unexpected traffic is a problem. Fortunately, it is of such a character that the public will not complain in case it is delayed.

While there has been absolutely no delay of parcels going out of Richmond and no delay in the delivery of parcels after they arrive here, yet there is such congestion and delay in other post-offices that thousands of Christmas parcels will be days late in reaching this city. Extreme carelessness has been displayed by the public in mailing parcels. Already there is a pile of 3,000 packages in the post-office basement which will be held because they contain no address.

The parcel post terminal has been taxed beyond its capacity. The terminal quarters became so crowded that the clerks could hardly move from one spot to another, and finally a portion of the force moved out into the corridors of the building.

Accused of Carrying Gun.
Louis Morris, colored, was arrested yesterday on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, a revolver.

HOTEL GUESTS GET MORNING GLASS

Bell Boys at Jefferson to Awaken Them With Trays of Christmas Eggnog.

A fine-towering cedar, reaching far up from the marble floor, was erected in the center of the lobby of the Jefferson Hotel yesterday afternoon and decorated with Christmas trees. For years Manager Weisker has placed a Christmas tree in the lobby. This year, however, he gave orders that the tree should be the biggest to be found, and had his men clear the furniture from the middle of the lobby, and put the cedar there rather than in one corner by the Colonnade. A thousand tiny electric bulbs of green, red, blue and white were strung through the boughs while tinsel and many-colored baubles were hung with a lavish hand.

Following the ancient custom of the hotel, egg nog, real Virginia egg nog, will be served to each guest this morning with the compliments of the management. The hotel's staff of bell boys, each armed with a tray, upon which will repose a tall glass, will march through the corridors at 8 o'clock, rap upon the doors, and present the guests with the egg nog with a "Merry Christmas."

In only a few of the Southern hotels is this custom observed. Fewer still set up a Christmas tree, and the two events always come as an agreeable surprise to travelers who had themselves forced to spend a cheerless Christmas away from home.

The Jefferson will again stage its big New Year's Eve dinner, modeled after the New York restaurant plan. There will be music, cabaret performers, confetti and an elaborate menu. Many tables have already been reserved.

WALK FORTH FREE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

(Continued From First Page.)

William H. DeLacey and the French Ambassador and Madame Jusserand.

Remembered by White House.

The forethought of President and Mrs. Wilson and their daughters brought Christmas cheer to many a poor home in Washington to-day.

Two White House automobiles, brimming with toys, provisions and clothing, were sent out from the White House to several hundred homes, which have been visited by Mrs. Wilson and her daughters. The Wilsons selected the toys and Christmas goods before they left, and charged Secretary Tamm with the care of a carefully timetabled list of poor. One of the automobiles took Christmas cheer to the little children who greet the out to the President's automobile every day as it skims past to the country clubs, where he plays golf.

No Congestion of Mails.

The Post-office Department to-day reports that there is less congestion than there was last Christmas eve in any one of the fifty largest cities of the country, despite the unprecedented amount of mail handled.

Alexander Stephens, general superintendent of the railway mail, stated that the holiday rush of 1912 had exceeded any former year by 75 per cent. Since July 1912, 11,000 employees have been added to post-office payrolls to take care of this mail.

New Money for Stockings.
Five million dollars in new 1913 gold and silver coins will be found in Christmas stockings tomorrow morning. To meet the demand for bright, clean money for Christmas gifts, the Treasury Department to-day stated that this amount had been transferred to the banks of the country during December.

"HUMAN FLY" INJURED

San Francisco, Cal., December 24.—Olaf Czarnowski, a stevedock known throughout the country as "the human fly," was found lying to-day on the floor of the St. Francis Hotel annex, now in process of construction. His skull was fractured and nearly every bone in his body was broken. Apparently he had a terrible fall, but where he fell from or when no person knew.

DOESN'T KNOW WHO HE IS.

Norfolk, Va., December 24.—Unable to tell his name or where he is from, a neatly dressed white man is puzzling the Norfolk police. The man arrived yesterday by Policeman Benton, declares he does not remember anything about himself. He had a signet ring with the initials J. J. B. C. He is believed to be J. J. B. Crawford, who disappeared from the side of his fiancée in Brooklyn on December 16. He had in his pocket a newspaper clipping telling about the disappearance of Crawford.

To-day Chief Kizer received a message from Mrs. Newman, a sister of Crawford, saying she would come here to see if the mysterious stranger is her missing brother. The New York police have been asked to send a description of Crawford.

The man in custody here says he remembers being in Wilmington, Del., and Washington, D. C., but does not know who he is. He says he suffers with pains in the head.

UNCLE SAM GIVES CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Continued From First Page.)

granted by Governor Cole L. Blaise since he assumed office three years ago reached 200 when he granted two paroles and a pardon to-day.

The Governor issued a statement that he would depart from his usual custom of granting executive clemency to a number on Christmas day. He qualified his statement by saying he probably would release a few, though those paroles or pardons would have no Christmas significance.

A white man serving a sentence for manslaughter was in the trio freed to-day.

Milwaukee Has Tree.

Milwaukee, Wis., December 24.—Milwaukee's Christmas celebration was officially begun at 5 o'clock this afternoon with the ringing of every church bell in the city for five minutes. With the last note came the illumination of the communal Christmas tree in the Court of Honor on Grand Avenue.

There were speeches, music and distributions of nuts and candy to children.

First Municipal Christmas.

Chicago, December 24.—Chicago's first Municipal Christmas festival was held in Grant Park to-night. Thou-

Merry Christmas

In the spirit of the Christmas season, we extend our greetings to customers and friends, and express the hope that yours may be a joyful holiday, full of peace and good will that will continue throughout the year to follow.



Last Minute Shoppers---

Here's the gift that can be bought in a hurry. You can get it as satisfactorily on the 24th as you could a month ago.

Why not make all your gifts this Christmas SAVINGS ACCOUNTS? Give every one of your loved ones a remembrance which shows your thoughtfulness and foresight—a gift that grows more valued, that encourages thrift and makes for success.



You can start savings accounts with any amount as low as \$1. Simply deposit the amount and present the bankbook.

We allow 3% interest, compounded semiannually, and give small accounts every attention and courtesy. You could not select a better bank for your boy to save in.

Planters Nat'l Bank
Capital and Surplus \$1,800,000

Merry Xmas

The Weisberger Company wishes every one a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your gifts be many, your health be the best and your prosperity ever on the rise.

We Wish to Thank

Our thousands of customers for their liberal patronage of the past few months that we have been in business for their kind forbearance of the mistakes that naturally occur in any business, especially a new one, and although the errors have been few and far between, we shall endeavor to give you better service, better merchandise and better values than ever.

To Our Employees

We extend our heartfelt appreciation of their loyal support and earnest co-operation during the holiday rush.

The Weisberger Company

312-318 East Broad Street, Richmond, Va.



Merry Xmas

From Santy's Own Gift Store

Rountrees
FACTORY TO YOU

No Refunds
No Exchanges
No Approvals

Dreyfus

Specialists
in Apparel
for Women

Broad at Second

We Inaugurate Saturday Morning
at 8:30 o'Clock

The Greatest

Clearance Sale

In the History of Our House

Important plans are under way for Spring business, which necessitates the closing out of a tremendous amount of merchandise during the next four weeks. Watch for our announcement in Friday's News Leader for the most extraordinary price reductions ever made upon high-grade, desirable merchandise

No Freak Shades

No Old Style Garments

No Job Lot Purchases

Every Garment From Our Own
Carefully Selected Stock.

Chicago, December 24.—Chicago's first Municipal Christmas festival was held in Grant Park to-night. Thou-